

TOWN OF EGREMONT, MASSACHUSETTS
MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

Date: June 1, 2016

Time: 7:02PM

Place: Town Hall

Egremont

Present were Selectmen Chairman Flynn, Vice-Chairman Turner, and Selectman Brazie, and Technology Committee members Eric Swanson, Marj Wexler, Jonathan Taylor, John Wells, Jeff Lazarus, and MBI representative Todd Corcoran. Also present was Eileen Vining.

This meeting is recorded for the purpose of transcribing minutes and is video recorded.

The first discussion item was to determine if the Town should “sign-up” with MBI to have them manage our pole survey/make ready, network design, and network construction.

MBI is offering \$410,000 in-kind professional services for design and project management to manage the build out and pay for all pole surveys. Any cost overruns will be born by the state.

The Town can fire MBI anytime and decide to move forward on its own.

The Town will have direct input through the whole process and has the ultimate responsibility for deciding what the town wants and in managing the build out.

The Town can continue with its RFP process. We may need to amend our RFP but agreed to evaluate the proposals based on the requirements as stated. Later on, if we do stick with MBI, we might go back and contract with one of the vendors on a more limited basis or reissue an amended RFP only for advisory services. MBI would like to be kept involved in our process and would be happy to assist in the evaluation of our RFP responses.

MBI will be hiring an engineer to do the design and pole survey work. This engineer will work with the towns that will be a part of round one - up to six towns.

The Technology Committee unanimously voted to recommend that the Board of Selectmen vote to proceed with the RFP and sign up with MBI to move forward with Broadband. The Board unanimously voted to do so.

The pole surveys could start as early as July.

Jeff Lazarus will be the Town Liason to MBI with Mary Brazie as the secondary. Sue Funk and Bruce Turner will be the financial contacts. MBI will provide us with a spreadsheet template that we can use to develop our financial model and sustainability plan.

MBI has agreed to open the door to Municipal Networks even though they lose revenue on the middle mile.

The Board voted unanimously to begin with a drop length of 1000'. This can be amended during the design process.

It was noted that Egremont had over a 40% support rate with WiredWest and an overwhelming show of support at the Town Meeting for Broadband. Todd said that MBI was aware that Egremont was financially capable and had enough support to make this project sustainable, which is one reason Egremont was chosen for the first round.

The Town will consider conducting some marketing research and public relations. Rates will need to stay competitive with the surrounding area.

The Board voted unanimously to own and operate the network as MBI requires this. MBI will pre-qualify operators. The Town is open to considering collaboration with Alford and Mount Washington.

The Town will utilize Town Counsel Jeremia Pollard for contract review unless he notifies us that we need specialized counsel. The pole attachment agreements will be sent to him for review.

The Municipal Light Plant is organizing on June 6. When signing contracts is it the BOS or the MLP?

Mount Washington has offered to serve some residents in Egremont. It was agreed that as it has been clearly stated from the start that Egremont will serve all residents, there will be no need for Mount Washington to take this on. Egremont will plan to interconnect with Alford and Mount Washington to provide redundancy and to enable possible future sharing of network operations.

Worst case scenario will have service to residents in 24 to 30 months.

New York residents who have utility service in Egremont will not be served unless they pay for their own line build out.

Meeting adjourned at 8:37 pm.

Mary Brazie,
Office Administrator

minutes.16/jun1bostech

The recording of the minutes is on record at the Town Hall for 90 days. Anyone who wishes to may obtain a copy or listen to the recording at Town Hall. Attachments are on file at Town Hall.